

macrolepis is one of over a dozen Indian pit-vipers and is common in the estate and in certain forest types (wet bamboo, streamsides) over 3000 ft.

Dr. Krishnamurthy, the Medical Officer of the Singampatti Group gave me the following interesting notes concerning *T. macrolepis* (Beddome) and the incidence of bites to the workers. This snake often spends the day quietly in tea and coffee bushes, at the base of cardamom plants, ferns near streams and in passion fruit and other vines. The snake is nocturnal and will sometimes snap when poked or pulled at.

There were 18 cases of pit-viper bite in the Group estates from June 1970 to April 1971, from *Trimeresurus macrolepis* which often rest in places where pickers will put their hands, or step.

Workers invariably tie a rope tourniquet above the bite. Bites are about 60% on women (being in the majority in field work). Incidence for hand and foot bites is 50/50 ; all bites occur during the day, an average of 18 to 20 a year.

Condition on admission. Generally no tooth marks visible ; slight swelling at the alleged site of bite (which a tourniquet can cause). The limb gradually swells (hard oedema) up to shoulder or knee. The victim experiences intense burning pain at site of bite for some hours and pain in the limb for 3-4 days after the bite, after which swelling subsides. No neurological or cardiac symptoms.

Treatment. Elevation of the limb. Magsulph fomentation to the swollen area and antibiotics given. Septic bite is rare, no mortality or serious symptoms caused by these bites. No known incidence of bites from other venomous snakes at the estate.

MADRAS SNAKE PARK,
MADRAS-22,
November 13, 1972.

R. WHITAKER

13. A NOTE ON 'GOLVA', A BAG NET, IN THE DAMANGANGA ESTUARY AT DAMAN

(With a text-figure)

Approximately 80 per cent of the inshore fish catches at Damam are by 'Golva' nets set in the Damanganga estuary. The Damanganga is a comparatively sluggish river, generally shallow except during peak monsoon months.

'Golva' is a fusiform wide-mouthed bag net made of cotton twine, of different dimensions depending upon available operational space. It is kept in position by attaching it to two poles by its mouth in the tidal zone of the estuary for catching miscellaneous fishes. Being a fixed net,

Whitaker : Pit Viper



Cardamom plantation at 4,500 ft. above MSL, typical habitat of *Trimeresurus macrolepis*.



Trimeresurus macrolepis from Manjolai, Tirunelveli Dist., Tamil Nadu.